



Photo courtesy of Spilyay Tymoo

ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS IN OREGON

EDUCATION, TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND CASH INCENTIVES BENEFIT COMMUNITIES

Conservation engages Native Americans living in urban areas as well as on reservations and protects resources for future generations.

By investing in energy projects, Native American business owners and tribal leaders can reduce operating costs and free up funds for other community endeavors. Energy-efficiency upgrades can help make homes and public spaces more comfortable and lower monthly energy bills. In addition, reducing energy usage preserves the environment, and generating renewable power from local resources can improve energy security and boost the local economy.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help Native Americans pursue clean energy projects ranging from commercial and residential lighting upgrades to solar electric systems. We can examine aspects of your energy usage to determine what upgrades would have the greatest benefit for your home, business or community. We also can assist you in finding the resources and expertise needed to do the job right.

Meeting the needs of the community

Energy Trust assistance is available to Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas customers in Oregon—including Native American families living in urban areas or on reservations, tribal businesses and industrial facilities. Cash incentives are available for a range of projects and, along with federal grants, tax credits and other funding sources, can make energy upgrades more affordable.



COQUILLE TRIBE GOES SOLAR

The Coquille Indian Tribe wanted to become more environmentally proactive in meeting future energy needs. A consultant from Pacific Power did an energy audit at various tribal facilities and recommended working with Energy Trust. In addition to lighting and other efficiency upgrades in tribal buildings and residences, tribal leaders tapped into Energy Trust's solar energy programs and started saving more energy—as well as money.

Sol Coast Consulting and Design, an Energy Trust trade ally, helped the Coquille Indian Tribe install a solar water heating system on the roof of the Coquille Indian Tribe Community Center to serve the Head Start and kitchen facilities in the building. The tribe expects to save 3,300 kilowatt hours per year and approximately \$231 in annual utility costs.

The tribe also installed a solar electric system on the same building. The 5-kilowatt system is expected to generate 5,686 kWh per year for a projected annual savings of \$398 per year.

In addition to installation and design, Sol Coast helped the tribe through the interconnection and net metering sign-up process. The solar system is connected to the Pacific Power grid. Any power generated that is not used at the gymnasium returns to the grid to serve other customers, and Pacific Power gives the Coquille Indian Tribe a credit on its bill.

The Coquille Indian Tribe received a total of \$7,947 in Energy Trust incentives to help finance these solar investments.



If not for the incentive award and the help from Energy Trust, I doubt that the tribe would have been able to afford the project. Energy Trust is a great source for helping governments and businesses meet goals and for helping people save money and protect the environment.

Todd Tripp, director of planning
community and real estate services
Coquille Indian Tribe



BUSINESS ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Energy upgrades can help Native American business owners reduce operating costs and meet sustainability goals. Clean energy projects help tribal communities maintain schools, community centers, government buildings and multifamily housing. Energy conservation helps relieve budget pressure and reduces health risks from mold caused by failing HVAC systems.

- **Existing commercial buildings**—Upgrades such as high-efficiency lighting, increased insulation and new heating and cooling systems can provide dramatic improvements in energy performance. We also can get you connected with the appropriate trade ally so you can find even more incentives.
- **New commercial buildings**—We provide technical assistance and cash incentives for new commercial building projects. Energy experts offer advice on how to build the most energy-efficient building using efficient heating and cooling equipment, modern weatherization methods and renewable energy systems. Past projects have included lodging facilities, casinos, cultural centers, office buildings, retail space, industrial plants and other Native American facilities. Designing from the ground up with energy performance in mind can reduce future operating costs and help Native American businesses reach efficiency goals.
- **Production efficiency**—Wood products operations, wastewater treatment facilities, manufacturing plants and other industrial enterprises benefit from lighting upgrades and production process improvements. We offer project scoping resources and technical assistance from experts in your industry to help make energy investments a reality.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Whether housing is owned by the tribe or by individuals, Energy Trust has the resources available to help residents reduce energy costs and increase comfort.

- **Multifamily residences**—Tribal housing authorities and Native American rental property owners can reduce overall utility and maintenance costs and benefit lower-income families by utilizing Energy Trust services. We can advise on upgrades for appliances, weatherization, heating and cooling systems, lighting, solar electric systems and more. Get started with a free energy assessment that helps you identify cost-effective upgrades for your properties. A dedicated energy advisor can give you step-by-step assistance for the duration of any project. We also offer free energy-efficient upgrades that can help your residents save energy and money by installing LED lighting, showerheads and faucet aerators in qualified dwellings. Upon installation we will also provide free advanced power strips for residents to connect to their electronics.
- **Existing homes**—Households can benefit from a free Home Energy Review—online or by phone—to help identify ways to reduce waste, improve comfort and save money. Homeowners receive information about Energy Trust cash incentives to help offset project costs and get references to trusted trade ally contractors to do the work. Simple, low-cost changes such as switching to more efficient lighting can go a long way toward reducing energy bills. Homeowners also may be eligible to receive a free Energy Saver Kit filled with energy-saving products.
- **Appliances**—We offer cash incentives for upgrading to qualifying ENERGY STAR® appliances. We also offer free pick-up and recycling of old refrigerators and freezers, along with a cash incentive. Refrigerator recycling incentives are also available for business owners.
- **Newly built homes**—Builders and homebuyers can receive support and resources when looking for newly constructed homes. Trade ally builders construct homes that have high-performance heating and cooling systems, better ductwork and ventilation, ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, efficient lighting and options for solar energy systems.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Energy Trust experts can work with you to assess residences, businesses and industrial sites to determine if they are good candidates for solar electric systems, small wind turbines, biopower, small hydropower or geothermal projects.

Tribes with wood products operations can also take advantage of local resources such as mill waste and products from forest thinning to generate power on site and help offset the energy needs of their facilities. The power is clean, renewable and local.

TRADE ALLY NETWORK

Energy Trust works with a network of more than 2,500 trade ally contractors and other professionals who design and install energy-saving improvements and renewable power systems. Licensed and insured trade allies are trained to meet Energy Trust standards. They also can help homeowners and businesses apply for Energy Trust cash incentives.

Native American contractors can receive training and assistance with certification to become members of Energy Trust's Trade Ally Network. Members gain access to job leads in Native American communities and elsewhere. The network is a great way to help keep local, skilled trades people informed of potential funding sources and best practices. For more information on becoming a member of the Trade Ally Network, please visit www.energytrust.org/ta.



NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER

In 2006, when the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) moved into an unused Portland middle school on NE Columbia Blvd., the organization knew there was a lot of work to do. The building, Whitaker Lakeside Middle School, had been out of service and used for storage and training purposes for a number of years.

While working with Clean Energy Works Portland on a community energy project, Rey Espana, NAYA's deputy director, learned about Energy Trust and its programs. When NAYA was ready to begin work on the middle school building, it was only natural to reach out to Energy Trust for advice.

One critical renovation to the building was to upgrade the lighting throughout the 60,000 square foot space. Energy Trust consulted on the project, and NAYA facilities staff performed all of the work.

NAYA signed up as an Energy Trust Trade Ally to help facilitate its ongoing work experience training program for the construction trades. Participants in the program gain valuable work skills and help NAYA perform weatherization and other renovations on community properties. NAYA's construction team completed all of the electrical and lighting for the new center. The high-performance lighting upgrade has helped NAYA staff be more productive and has allowed visitors and students to feel more comfortable while using the facility.

Energy Trust contributed \$3,504 in cash incentives for the lighting project, and the organization has experienced an annual savings of 22,346 annual kilowatt hours, enough electricity to power more than two average Oregon homes.

As part of its renovations to the middle school building, NAYA also installed a 107-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system, and Energy Trust provided the organization with a \$153,410 incentive for the project.

Overall, upgrades to the facility have provided NAYA with a 10 percent annual savings in energy costs.



Energy Trust has been a great partner. Everyone is very professional and responsive to the energy concerns of the native community. I would encourage others to consult Energy Trust for help reducing energy use, saving money and becoming more environmentally sound.



Rey Espana, deputy director
Native American Youth and Family Center



Get more from your energy. Contact us today at **1.866.368.7878** or visit **www.energytrust.org**.